



The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

Charlotte Hamfest 2010 is “in the books”

The 2010 edition of the Charlotte Hamfest is now history, and the weekend was an enjoyable one for many folks. With a count of over 125 people at the Annual CDXA Banquet, we can honestly say that more people than ever enjoyed a good time on Saturday night at our banquet.

The day started nicely with bright sunshine warming the spring skies. This was far better than the cold, damp, overcast conditions we experienced as the doors opened in 2009. Within an hour of opening, there were lots of CDXAers standing in the aisle in front of the CDXA booth renewing acquaintances after dropping their QSL cards off at the ARRL booth nearby. Dan Henderson and Mary Hobart were in town from ARRL Headquarters and shared the ARRL booth with Roanoke Division Director Dennis Bodson and newly elected Vice Director James Boehner. Gary Dixon, Dan Henderson, and Ken Boyd checked 1028 QSL cards from 23 applicants and had most of the work done by mid-afternoon.

Close by the CDXA booth also was Scott Robbins displaying his wares as the new owner of Vibroplex. Just up the aisle was the Yaesu booth with Dennis Motschenbacher and Jerry Darby answering the questions. Pat

W4VHF	Ted Goldthorpe	President
AD4IE	Paul Ponak	Vice-Pres.
W3ZL	Cliff Wagoner	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
W3OA	Dick Williams	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	Cluster Mgr.- North Area
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

Marcy of ICOM was only a few steps farther around the corner as was Rich Moseson of CQ Publications. Nearby also was the Ten-Tec booth. Anybody wanting ham gear of any kind certainly had enough to look at. We were pleased to have all of these folks join us at our banquet later that evening.

The CDXA booth had its share of onlookers that weren't members. Dick Williams had his display of CW Skimmer running on a big TV screen, and that prompted a lot of questions from those who had never seen what CW Skimmer can do for the contester. Also giving rise to activity was a really nice 2000 watt inverter generator being offered in CDXA's raffle to raise funds to support DXpeditions. You can bet there were a lot of folks eying that gem of a generator.

At noontime, a gang of folks wandered over to another building in the convention center complex to take in the very interesting presentation by Joe Blackwell, AA4NN, on his recent activities on the Midway Island (K4M) DXpedition.

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CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems		
W4DXA (11 mi. NE of Mooresville)	144.93 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.00 MHz (9600 bits/second)
K4MD Charlotte, NC	144.91 MHz (1200 bits/second)	Not Available on 9600 bits/second
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com	
NA4L (Near Hillsville, VA)	144.95 MHz (1200 bits/second) Connect to NA4L ("C NA4L")	
NA4L (AR Cluster via Telnet)	cdxa.no-ip.org	
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC	
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org	
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Skyland Family Restaurant, 4544 South Boulevard, Charlotte, NC	

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The rest of the afternoon, everyone had plenty of opportunity to wander around the flea market tables to look for that rare needed part for their projects.

We welcomed many of the members of the “Tennessee 8” at both the Hamfest and later at the banquet. It is always a pleasure to see that group come over the mountains to join us each year. Many other out of town guests—both members and non-members—helped make the banquet a festive occasion.

Despite the nominal starting time of 6:30PM for our banquet, when your editor arrived at 6:00PM to be “early” to greet guests, he found a number of people already there! Everyone seemed to find a seat by the time dinner was served. As usual, we had a number of door prizes for the fortunate donated by both vendors and individuals. Many people went home with “something extra” beyond just having a good time.

Yaesu was very kind to provide a FT-857D radio for the grand prize, and that was won by Bob Burton (N4PQX). It was clear that a true DXer would enjoy that radio when Bob’s number was called for the prize.

One other surprise for the evening was when Dennis Bodson and Dr. James Boehner made a presentation of the Vic Clark Roanoke Division ARRL Service Award for 2009. The winner for this year was CDXA’s own Gary Dixon, K4MQG. Those of us who’ve observed what Gary has done for CDXA, INDEXA, and all North Carolina Hams as our representative to the DX Advisory Committee were delighted that Gary won this award.

Contest Manager Dick Williams (W30A) was granted a

few minutes to recognize those who had done well in the intraclub competition for the ARRL International DX Contest. The winners are reported in a separate article on Page 5 in this newsletter.

The culmination of the 2009 DX King award came about with the drawing of a ticket from those who qualified for the raffle of a 26” TV by scoring at least 150 points in the DX King competition. The winner was John Dwiggins, N4QVM. Congratulations to John!

Those who still hadn’t finished their shopping showed up on Sunday morning for those last few items. If they stayed long enough, they were able to see the name of Jerry Neal, KC4CQR, drawn as the winner of the generator for the CDXA raffle.

It not present this year, we hope to see you next year!

Ten and Twenty Years Ago. . . .

(All citations below have been extracted from the archived issues of The Pileup, available on the CDXA website. Check them out. –The Editor)

Ten Years Ago

CDXA pledged some funds the A51A DXpedition to Bhutan being led by Bob Allphin, K4UEE. . . . there was quite a crowd at The Open Kitchen for the Hamfest banquet—so much so everyone couldn’t fit in the assigned dining room. . . . representatives of Kachina Radio attended the Hamfest and remotely operated their radio in Amarillo, Texas over a telephone line, creating quite a pileup. . . . Bill Parris’ antenna farm was pictured being disassembled in preparation for Bill’s relocation to Frankfort, Michigan. . . . the short-lived “Milly and Mike” series made it’s premier appearance in the Pileup but died a few months later.

Twenty Years Ago

In the list of new members joining CDXA in 1990 were KF2X and K4DGJ, callsigns owned by Craig England and Sam Hawes, respectively, and members of our organization today. Could they be the one and the same??? Someone had done a Mininec analysis for a new dipole but had to truncate the full analysis because of “computer time” on the mainframe computer (and that same calculation can be done today on your Personal Computer with software owned by you!) Victor (LY2ZZ) was finishing his “American tour” and received the keys to the City of Charlotte from Mayor Sue Myrick . . . Jim Smith (VK9NS, SK) was making many folks happy by suddenly showing up in Bhutan and putting it on the air.

The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association
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Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to “The Amateur’s Code” as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Dues are \$35 per year for those using the PacketCluster maintained by the Association, \$20 otherwise, payable each December. Dues are payable by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
P. O. Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: jcw53@cornell.edu.

For the Record—Hamfest Prize Winners

Three people were particularly happy at the conclusion of the recent Charlotte Hamfest weekend. In case you wondered who won the various prizes up for grabs, here's the list.

HDTV 26" TV drawing from DX King qualifiers was awarded to John Dwiggins, N4QVM

2000 watt Generator Raffle; (proceeds to support DXpeditions) was awarded to Jerry Neal, KC4CQR

YAESU FT-857D, compliments of YAESU, was awarded to Bob Burton, N4PQX

This list is not the complete list of happy people since there were some nice door prizes won at the Annual Hamfest Banquet. At the risk of leaving some donors out, your editor recalls gifts donated by CQ Communications, ARRL, SEDCO, Ten-Tec, Vibroplex, DX Publishing Co. (aka Carl Smith, N4AA), Carolina Prime Steakhouse, Pete Manfre (WA2ODO), Carol Dixon, Merrill Lynch, Ted and Itice Goldthorpe, Roger Burt, Jim and Normal Miller, and John and Barb Scott.

Welcome New Members!!

Charlotte Hamfest usually brings us a few new members each year, and 2010 was not any different. Four new members joined us in March.

Rodney Efird (W4QF) of Concord, NC was followed closely by **Terry Scaia (N4IYB)** of Matthews, NC.

Following Rodney and Terry closely after the Hamfest were **Andy Hawkins (K4GKK)** and **Phil Greene (N4ZSA)** of Granite Falls, NC.

While we're at it, **Marks Ryan** has changed his callsign from KI4EUW to N4INE.

To all of the new members, welcome to the CDXA!

CDXA Earns WAS Award

Every year over the last couple of years, Thomas Wright (N4HN) has quietly submitted every contest log for CDXA's club callsign, W4DXA, to Logbook of the World (LoTW) after completion of the North Carolina QSO Party and Field Day.

Recently Thomas wrote your editor an email advising him that there are now 18,528 QSOs recorded on LoTW resulting in 2,096 matches and earning CDXA the Worked All States Award. Hats off to US!!!

Need an Engineer/Craftsman?

Paul Sturpe (W3GQ) needed a jig made to make some repairs on a Stationmaster VHF antenna. It involved machining a part. Paul has a grandson who races quarter-midget race cars. Paul met just the fellow to do his work—the father of another quarter-midget racer.

He's not just "any father", however. Brett Mueller now lives in Mooresville and used to run his own race shop in Florida. After selling his Florida business and moving here, he does job-shop work for some area race shops as a sole proprietor. But, he's also available to take on "one-off" projects for people like hams!

Brett has a machine shop consisting of a metalworking lathe, vertical mill, TIG (tungsten inert gas) welding for aluminum and stainless, MIG welding, and a press brake for sheet metal. He has good design skills from his race shop days. (He even has a chassis dynamometer if you feel the need to measure the output of your 'vette!)

Oh yes, it doesn't end there. Do you need some aluminum tubing, an aluminum mast, or a chrome-moly mast for your station? Brett has contacts with the area suppliers of metal products and can probably get it for you. Want a reference? Talk to Paul. Better yet, call Brett Mueller at A.C.M. Performance (704-302-5155 or acm-performance@windstream.net).

Jim Morris, KQ4O (SK)

Every year about this time, our Secretary-Treasurer reviews our roster for those who have not renewed their membership. In that process this year we were saddened to learn that long-time CDXA member **Jim Morris (KQ4O)** of Granite Falls had silently slipped away from us during 2009. Jim was like a lot of our members who don't live in the immediate vicinity of Charlotte. They enjoy their association with other DXers and stay in touch through the Pileup and by periodically participating in events like Field Day. We know Jim enjoyed his association with CDXA because he was one of the first to purchase an embroidered CDXA shirt back in 2000. We regret that we were not able to honor his passing earlier.

Gary Dixon, K4MQG, Wins Vic Clark Award

The CDXA Banquet at the Charlotte Hamfest 2010 delivered a pleasant surprise to the 120+ guests assembled for the annual event.

Roanoke Division Director Dennis Bodson (W4PWF) and the Division's newly elected Vice Director Dr. James Boehner (N2ZZ) asked for permission to address the assembly, and CDXA President Ted Goldthorpe gladly yielded the microphone. Dennis and James then announced that CDXA's Gary Dixon, K4MQG, was a co-winner of the 2009 version of the Roanoke Division ARRL Service Award, commonly called the Vic Clark Award. A photo of the ceremony is on Page 7.

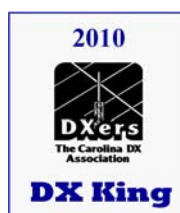
The award was instituted in 1968 by Roanoke Division Director Vic Clark (W4KFC). Vic intended the award to be recognition for a long history of significant and consistent contributions to Amateur Radio. The amateur selected would have over the years dedicated much of his or her time to Amateur Radio and nominations are encouraged and accepted from any amateur in the Roanoke Division—making it an award bestowed by one's peers.

Winners of the Service Award become members of the selection committee and vote on which nominee should be honored the next year. An individual can receive the award only once. The administration of the award is done by the Roanoke Division Director. Director Bodson announced that the 2009 winner of the ARRL Service Award was in fact two people in a tie vote for 2009—allowing two people to be so honored. Gary Dixon, K4MQG, was recognized for his long work in serving amateur radio as President and Director of IN-DEXA and member of the ARRL DX Advisory Committee as but two of his many activities serving amateur radio. The other winner was Carl Clements, W4CAC, Virginia Section Manager. Congratulations to both Gary and Carl.

Is 60meters your thing?

Do you want to give the 60 meter bands a go? One fellow who seems to have made 60 meters his personal crusade is Joe Pater, W8GEX. Joe provides a 60 meter update weekly to those who are interested and tries to put 60 meters on the air whenever he goes.

Contact Joe at w8gex@aol.com with 60 meter news. He'll even put you on his email list if you're interested. There is a 60 meter chat page at <http://dxworld.com/60mlog.html>.



DX King News

Dick Williams, W3OA

Item 1: Full details of our DX King Contest and your chances to win a CDXA Jacket from Lands' End or an AES Gift Certificate are on page 10 of the January Pileup (<http://cdxa.org/pileup/Archives/cdxa1001.pdf>).

Item 2: The DX Marathon web site now shows all the logs that have been received and validated for the 2009 DX Marathon. This enabled us to determine which CDXA members were eligible for the 26 inch LCD television raffle. We held the raffle at our March 13 CDXA Dinner and the winner was N4QVM, John Dwiggins, of Cooleemee, NC. Congratulations, John!

Item 3: These are the scores I have for the 2010 DX King competition as of March 31:

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
W3GQ	Unlimited	211	39	250
K4YR	Unlimited	200	40	240
W4HG	Unlimited	197	40	237
K5EK	Unlimited	194	40	234
N4PQX	Unlimited	177	39	216
W3OA	Unlimited	178	38	216
W4UFO*	Unlimited	140	35	175
W3ZL	Formula	130	32	162
K8YC	Unlimited	126	34	160
N2TU	Unlimited	125	31	156
K4ESE**	Unlimited	119	32	151
W4HLD*	Unlimited	111	31	142
W4WNT*	Unlimited	90	23	113
K4DXA	Unlimited	18	14	32

* New entry this month.

** All of K4ESE's contacts were on 80 meters.

Item 4: Don't forget to send me your DX marathon scores as of the last day of each month after your score reaches 100 (w3oa@roadrunner.com).

2010 ARRL DX Contest Wrap Up CDXA Doubles Its Score

By Dick Williams, W3OA

The 2010 edition of the ARRL International DX Contest is over, the logs are in, and the CDXA prizes have been awarded. Here are the results, based on claimed scores. The final scores will appear in QST this fall.

The most significant result for CDXA is that we doubled the score we've reported in recent years. In 2008 we claimed 11.8 million points and placed third in the Medium Club competition. In 2009 we claimed 11.3 million points and placed seventh. Our claimed score of 23.6 million points this year is more than double that of 2008 and 2009. We should show up very high when QST publishes the results of the 2010 Club competition.

CDXA members competed among themselves for first place prizes in six categories. Each received their choice of a \$50 Outback Steak House Gift card or a trophy plus a CDXA certificate. The winners were:

Top Combined Score: N4ZC, Roger, 3,736,605 points.

Top CW Score: N2TU, Lou, 1,746,480 points

Top Phone Score: W3GQ, Paul, 1,189,863 points

Top CW, low power, Score: K4LY, Doug, 764,460 points

Top Phone, Low Power, Score: W4WNT, Bill, 65,100 points

Top DXpedition Score: KH6/AA4V, Steve, 609,360 points

Members who completed 1000 or more QSOs combined, CW and phone, received their choice of a \$25 Outback Steak House Gift card or a trophy plus a CDXA certificate. The six winners in this category were:

K2SX, Dennis
KZ2I, Steve
W3OA, Dick

K5EK, ED
N4PQX, Bob
W7DO, Gary

Members who completed 500 or more QSOs combined, CW and phone, received a CDXA certificate and a CDXA patch. There were five winners in this category:

AD4IE, Paul
K4DXA, Ken
KI4TZ, Joe

K1MIJ, Wilson
K4YR, Pat

Members who completed 250 or more QSOs combined, CW and phone, received a CXA patch. There were four winners in this category:

K8YC, John
W4ZV, Bill

W3ZL, Cliff
WW4CP, Chris

Here are some soapbox comments from the phone contest:

K8YC: I heard N4ZC so many times I thought he must be chasing me around the bands. Next most often heard was W3OA. Rounding out CDXAers I heard were K4CEB, KZ2I and K4DXA. It sure was great hearing someone on 10 meters again, and even 15 meters was fun again.

KZ2I: Welllll, I got the antennas sorta working. 25 minutes before the start of the contest, I was cranking the tower back up after repositioning the beams, tightening the bolts (found 2 bolts are missing out of rotator plate) and reattaching the rotator cable that pulled itself loose. Got the 80 meter inverted vee back where it should be (30m will have to wait). This after working all day (I gotta retire if this stuff keeps up). Ran into W3OA, W3GQ, N4PQX and N4ZC (Roger was EVERYWHERE!!!). And heard some of the others occasionally too. Ten had the usual LUs,

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PYs, CE's and CXs but also snagged some closer-in Caribs like J7, J3 and V4. Not worldwide propagation, but it's a start. JAs were the loudest I've heard them in years on 15, 20 and 40. And JT1CO came back on 40 on 2nd call with an outstanding signal. Only station I heard that I missed working was a BX that I called periodically for almost 2 hours.

N4PQX: Limited op time, just 8hrs 50mins of S&P, tried to max on mults to help the score. Had rotor problems and some amp problems too, I guess after 10 years it's time for major shack/antenna maintenance. Got a little more acquainted with N1MM, but I'm sure much more to learn.

N4ZC: Without a skimmer there aren't enough stations spotted. I had a 1000 Qs in the first 24 hrs so it was kind of boring the second 24 hrs with only 430 Q. All search & pounce except for a bit over an hour of run on Sunday on 15m, which brought in 92 Q. Just after I started the run I saw a ZS spot and wondered if I should try to work the new mult but I had 3 ZS call me in the run. Also picked up an SV and 4U1ITU in the run. I think there were more bad spots in this contest than ever before. 160m was good to EU the first night but on the poor side the second. The 80 m EU sloper had a 5:1 SWR so would only load up to about 700 w. Very strange because it was the same SWR on all freq. 15m was open to EU about as much as the CW weekend but a number of the hours were very weak signals. I did work four EU stations in my run that were QRP—5 watts! I worked 8P, J7, P4, PJ2, and TI on 6 bands. A total of 128 DXCC countries.

Charlotte Hamfest Scenes



W3ZL and N4ZC greet visitors to CDXA booth. Below: Dennis Bodson, Mary Hobart and Dan Henderson give ARRL a presence.



Lynn Lamb and Scott Robbins look over the Vibroplex line. Below: Gary Dixon and Ken Boyd checked QSL cards carefully..



Charlotte Hamfest Scenes



Jerry Darby, Dennis and Lieska Motschenbacher, Hilda and Lou Dietrich all await a steak dinner. Below: Skip Teller, creator of Digipan, and Lynn Lamb revisit some ham experiences.



Below: Joe and Margaret Blackwell visit with Priscilla and Bill Jennings about life on Midway Island as Joe found it during K4M.



Dennis Bodson and James Boehner present the Roanoke Division ARRL Service Award for 2009 to Gary Dixon. Below, Bob Burton accepts a Yaesu FT-857D from Yaesu EVP Dennis Motschenbacher as the Grand Doorprize winner.



Below: Steve Reichlyn and Rich Moseson, along with Craig England and Bill Turner and XYLs, await two tablemates before dinner is served.



The Back Page

One look back at the 2010 **Charlotte Hamfest** and all the happenings there. (Front Page)

Four new members arrived during March, 2010. See Page 3.

CDXA earns WAS Award. How did that happen, you ask? See Page 3.

Gary Dixon, K4MQG, wins the **Roanoke Division ARRL Service Award** for 2009. See Page 4.

The **DX King Competition** is under way for 2010, and it looks like competition is still strong. See Page 4.

Our intraclub competition for the **ARRL International DX contest** is over and the winners were announced at the Hamfest Banquet. See Page 5.

Like **Pictures**? A visual history of the recent Hamfest can be seen on Pages 6 and 7.

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First Class Mail

See something wrong with your address label? Notify W3ZL at once, please.